

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OES-07 DOE-11 SOE-02
ACDA-12 /105 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:JBURGESS:GP
APPROVED BY PM/ISO:JBURGESS
IO/SCI:AJILLSON
S/AS:PJFARLEY
OSD/ISA/IMRA:JWOODS (DRAFT)
NAVY:CAPTAIN J. DRAIN
-----117272 041318Z /50

P 040131Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
COMIDEASTFORCE ATHENS
JCS
DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T STATE 055974

USIAEA, CINCS ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS: IAEA, US, EG

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SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP (NPW) TRANSIT OF SUEZ
CANAL

REFERENCE:A.STATE 53768 (DTG 021934 MARCH 78)
B.CAIRO 06874 (DTG 030953Z MARCH 78)
C.STATE 23171 (DTG 280226Z JAN 78)

1. THE REQUEST BY EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ADDRESSED IN REFTEL (A) IS MATTER OF CONCERN BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL IMPACT GOE OR OTHER COASTAL STATE ACTIONS MIGHT HAVE REGARDING NPW. AS NOTED REFTEL B, PROPERLY FRAMED IAEA SUGGESTIONS MIGHT HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS IN THE CASE OF SUEZ CANAL TRANSIT BUT ALSO COULD HAVE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS. IT COULD ALSO DELAY GOE DECISION.

2. CONCERN OVER IAEA ACTION STEMS FROM FOLLOWING FACTORS:

(A) RECOMMENDATIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE PATTERNED ALONG LINES OF COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT REGULATIONS, SAFETY CRITERIA AND LIABILITY. THESE RECOMMENDATIONS MAY BE GIVEN WITHOUT IDENTIFYING DIFFERENT CLASSES OF NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS.

(B) GOE ADOPTION OF IAEA SUGGESTIONS, WITHOUT DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR PROPULSION, COULD CREATE SERIOUS POLITICAL AND OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS FOR THE US BY IMPINGING UPON THE SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY OF NPW'S AND REQUIRING THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION PROHIBITED BY US LAW.

(C) WE ARE AWARE OF IAEA DOCUMENT "SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS IN THE USE OF PORTS AND APPROACHES BY NUCLEAR SHIPS" DATED 1968. THE SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS IN THIS DOCUMENT, IF
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APPLIED BY GOE TO NPW, WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO USG. US LAW AND IMPLEMENTING SECURITY REGULATIONS PROHIBIT PROVIDING GOE WITH THE "SAFETY ASSESSMENT INFORMATION" SUGGESTED THEREIN.

(D) SUGGESTIONS OR RECOMMENDATION FROM IAEA COULD SERVE AS PRECEDENT FOR OTHER COASTAL STATE ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO TERRITORIAL OR INTERNAL-WATERS ADJACENT INTERNATIONAL WATERWAYS OR STRAITS.

3. REQUEST USIAEA REPORT INFORMATION AVAILABLE RE STATUS OF GOE REQUEST, CURRENT THINKING ON PROBABLE IAEA RESPONSE, AND ASSESSMENT OF TIMING OF IAEA RESPONSE. FOR PRESENT, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT MISSION NOT RPT NOT DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH AGENCY STAFF. HOWEVER, INQUIRIES MAY BE MADE TO SELECTED US RPT US STAFF MEMBERS. MATTER MAY ALSO BE DISCUSSED WITH UK MISSION.

4. TO PROVIDE USIAEA WITH ESSENTIAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON US POLICY REGARDING NPW OPERATION, REFTEL (C) WILL BE REPEATED TO YOU. ADDITIONAL PERTINENT INFORMATION WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPTTEL. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: JBURGESS:GP
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Film Number: D780099-0544
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: MPOL, EWWT, US, EG, IAEA
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Type: TE
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